

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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R 271950Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 204085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROCESSING: POLICY ON AMERICAN
FLAG MERCHANT VESSELS - REFUGEES

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF STATE 107782 DATED MAY 8, 1975
SENT ACTION TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS,
CINCPAC AND CINCPACREP GUAM.

QUOTE 1. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT AMERICAN FLAG
VESSELS PLYING NORMAL TRADE ROUTES OFF THE COASTS OF VIET-
NAM ARE FINDING POCKETS OF VIETNAMESE ON SMALL BOATS. WE
DO NOT KNOW THE NUMBERS INVOLVED AT THIS TIME NOR HOW LONG
THIS SITUATION MAY LAST.

2. SHIP CAPTAINS MAY BE PICKING UP THOSE PERSONS WHO THEY
DETERMINE TO BE IN DISTRESS OR ENDANGERED.

3. OUR POLICY IS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WHO
ARE PICKED UP BY AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS ON INTERNATIONAL
WATERS.

4. WE HAVE ASKED THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MERCHANT SHIP-
PING TO INFORM SHIPPING LINES OF THE ABOVE AND TO ASK
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AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS TO INFORM THEIR SHIPPING AGENTS IN

THEIR NEXT PORT OF CALL OF THE NUMBERS WHO ARE PICKED UP.
THE SHIPPING AGENTS ARE IN TURN TO NOTIFY THE EMBASSY IN

ORDER THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT.

5. UNLESS PORT OF CALL IS MANILA, WE WILL WORK WITH ICEM TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION TO GUAM.

6. ACTION ADDRESSEES: INFORM DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CASES FALLING INTO THE ABOVE CATEGORY. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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